

# Washington bureau

By Luther Huston

## COPLEY NEWSPAPERS

Seven full-time reporters comprise the staff of the Copley News Service that provides a Washington report to fifteen Copley newspapers and contributes to a mail feature service that goes to some 1,300 clients in all parts of the world. It is a relatively young staff in years but old enough in experience to constitute a well-seasoned professional group.

Since the Copley papers are published in Illinois and California, three of the staff are basically regional correspondents. Lester Bell looks after news of special interest to papers in Springfield, Aurora, Elgin and Joliet, Illinois. Marguerite Sullivan, a new member, takes care of the regional news needs of Copley papers in Northern California. Dan Foley is the regional man for Southern California papers, which include the San Diego Union and the San Diego Tribune, bright jewels in the Copley diadem.

These regional reporters are available for any request that comes from a Copley editor, and plenty of them come, particularly from the San Diego Union. Because not all the requests are for regional news, the regional reporters frequently are asked to take on national stories that fall within the pattern of Copley News Service coverage.

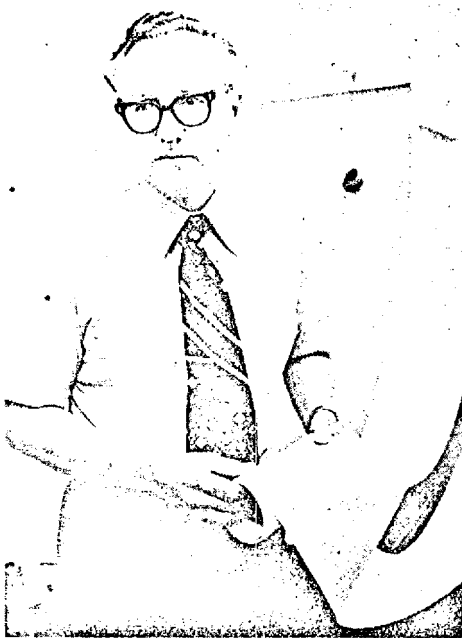
### Youthful veterans

The four who are classified as national reporters are James D. Cary, who is bureau chief, Edward Neilan, L. Edgar Prina and Benjamin Shore. All are what might be called youthful veterans, with experience in domestic and foreign fields.

Cary, who succeeded Raymond McHugh as bureau chief, on June 9, has been with Copley in Washington for five years. Before that, he was with the Associated Press for 16 years, six of them in Japan. Besides supervising the operation of the bureau, he covers the White House mostly in Washington, not San Clemente or Key Biscayne.

Neilan, a veteran Far East reporter, covers the State Department and related diplomatic affairs. Ben Shore, formerly with Newsday, specializes in Congressional coverage. Prina is the bureau's military expert who finds time away from the Pentagon to cover transportation news and occasional general assignments.

The bureau is not staffed to cover long running assignments like the Watergate hearings and generally avoids spot news stories that are amply covered by the wire services. A spot story like a Nixon news conference, however, will be covered, with Cary pounding the typewriter.



James D. Cary, chief of Washington Bureau of Copley News Service.

Photo by Pat Young

### Depth coverage

What the bureau endeavors to turn out are in-depth, background articles and features, that supplement and put in perspective the spot stories from the wire services and other sources that deluge the editors' desks. The bureau's report goes to

the papers over a teletype circuit that is available around the clock and is operated by Ralph Moseley. Moseley might be called the eighth member of the staff because he writes a civil service column out of a background of several years in government service.

### Features are mailed

The articles the Washington bureau contributes to the mail feature service, which Cary says is the largest in the world, are mailed to San Diego, which is the headquarters of the news service, and from there distributed by mail to clients in the United States and throughout the world. Circulation is heaviest in Latin America.

The Copley newspapers opened their first Washington bureau in 1944, mainly to serve the Illinois papers that were the nucleus of the Copley Chain. The first bureau manager was the late Bob Richards, whose forte was politics, regional and national.

In 1955, the Copley newspaper bureau became the Copley News Service, the name it still bears. The staff and the coverage was expanded but stabilized at the present numerical force. McHugh succeeded Richards in 1965 and headed the Service until his retirement this year.

The bureau occupies what might almost be called a penthouse suite, handsomely furnished, in a modern building on K Street, where fountains play in an entrance courtyard.